Opening up of Insurance Sector

†*130. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to open the Insurance Sector for private as well as foreign companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its likely impact on employment and investment in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 was passed by Lok Sabha on 2nd December, 1995 with certain amendments. The Bill seeks to set up an Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and amend the LIC Act, 1956, GIBNA, 1972 and Insurance Act, 1938. The opening up of this sector will enlarge the size of the insurance market. This will help improve the quality of service to consumers and result in the long term additional investment and employment.

Appointment of women Public Prosecutors and Judges

*131. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any positive steps have been taken by Government on the recommendation of the Law Commission for appointment of women public prosecutors and judges in sufficient number to deal with the cases involving women in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of appointments so far made by Government in the country, State-wise, particularly in the State of Punjab; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The Law Commission of India has, in its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, inter alia, recommended that the Government, while appointing Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors under sections 24 and 25 Cr. P.C. shall, as far as practicable, appoint sufficient number of women Public Prosecutors and Assistant Public Prosecutors so that they can effectively deal with cases involving women who are under 18 years of age and in respect of whom offences under sections 354, 376, 376A, 376B, 376C & 376D and 509 of the Indian Penal Code have been committed.

Since the Criminal Procedure Code is on the Concurrent List of the Constitution and Criminal Laws are administered by the State Governments, the Report of the Law Commission was referred to the State Governments for their views. Further, since some of the recommendations of the Commission did not require any amendment to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the State Governments were also requested to implement them. These included, inter alia, appointment of women prosecutors.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for foreign investment in Kerala

*132. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government had submitted any proposal for foreign investment in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) takes place generally through private entrepreneurs/companies. State Government of Kerala has not sent any specific proposal regarding this.